GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2839
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2001
CONVICTION RATE
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR

Will the Minister of LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether only 7% of charged accused are convicted in the prevailing judicial system and 93% manage to go scot free:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to expedite trials for quick justice to prevent criminalisation and avert the collapse of justice?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a): As per information made available by the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, the average conviction rate of crimes under the Indian Penal Code from the year 1995 to 1999 has been 39.02%. However, the information is being verified from the Courts.

(b): The reasons for poor conviction rate, inter alia, can be attributed to the nature of the procedural laws, practices and procedures followed by criminal courts and the inadequencies of the investigating and prosecuting agencies.

(c): Various steps have been taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of both civil and criminal cases. These include amendment of the Civil Procedure Code and the Code ofCriminal Procedure, increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial Officers, establishment of Special Courts/tribunals, computerisation of courts and adoption of alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes.

As regards Criminal Procedure Code, the Law Commission of India hascomprehensively reviewed the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. The Government has recently appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of Shri Justice V.S.Malimath, to suggest measures for revamping the Criminal Justice System.

Government has sanctioned a scheme involving an amount of Rs.502.90 crore for creation of 1734 Fast Track Courts for expeditious disposal of long pending sessions cases and cases involving undertrials in jails, on priority. The scheme is in operation with effect from April,2001.